

9/8/46

WASHINGTON---The Newark Eagles clinched the Negro National League 1946 championship, Wednesday night, by defeating the runner-up New York Cubans, 17-5, in a night game at Newark.

The victory left the Eagles three games ahead of the Cubans with only two games remaining on the Birds' schedule.

Prior to the Cuban victory, the Eagles had twice bested the fourth-place Philadelphia Stars, 11-10, in a 12-inning thriller, and 7-0, in a Labor Day twin bill and lost a 12-7 game to the Stars on Tuesday night.

Cubans Wins, 1-0

For revenge, though it was of no avail as far as the title is concerned, the Cubans defeated the Eagles, 1-0, in a thrill-packed game at the Polo Grounds, Sunday, before 11,000 fans. Luis Tiant, Cuban southpaw, fanned eight and granted ~~xx~~ six hits in the stadium contest.

In the first game of the stadium bill, the Baltimore Elite Giants, behind seven-hit pitching by Southpaw Jonas Gaines, beat the Philadelphia Stars, 8-4, to virtually assure themselves of a third-place finish in the second half.

Also on Sunday, the Homestead Grays trounced the New York Black Yankees, 15-1 and 8-1, in a twin bill at Washington, to assure themselves of a spot above the cellar berth of the league. Josh Gibson banged a 410-foot homer in the second game to pace the day's 28-hit attack, while John Hairston and Wilmer (Red) Fields held the Yankees at bay.

Tiant Superb

Tiant handed the Eagles their second shutout defeat of the year when he limited them to ~~thexxingxxxxxxx~~ thx half dozen hits. Rufus Lewis, the Birds' twirler, was nicked for eight blows. Tiant wiggled out of a terrific hole in the ninth when with the bases loaded and two down, he forced Lewis to pop up for the third out.

The lone Cuban run came in the fourth inning when Harry Williams beat out a hit to third base and raced to second on a wild throw. Garcia walked and Clark sacrificed ~~xxxxx~~, sending Williams to third from where he scored as Larry Doby made a great stop on the next infield cut but couldn't make the play at the plate and Williams crossed the pan on an infield cut.

Willie Wells led the Elites' 9-hit attack in the first game, with two doubles and a single in 4 times at bat, while Walter Dennis, Philly firstbaseman, got his fourth home run in 5 stadium games. Barney Brown, Philly hurler, was touched for 7 blows.

In Philadelphia last week, Doby was the Eagles' star in the 12-inning victory, sending Wilks home with the winning run in the twelfth after Wilks had walked and moved to second on Pat Patterson's sacrifice. In the second game, Monty Irvin hit two home runs to pace the Birds to a 7-0 triumph as Jim Peace bested Bill Ricks on the mound.

Henry McHenry was the winning pitcher for the Stars on the next night as the Stars clipped the Birds, 12-7, and Max Manning scored his eleventh league victory by defeating the Cubans on Wednesday night.